

October 28, 2005

Chief, Policy and Compliance Division

Transmittal # 87 CHAMPVA Policy Manual

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**PUBLICATIONS AND TRANSMITTAL CHANGE
FOR THE CHAMPVA PM (POLICY MANUAL)**

Explanation of the changes and related index updates to the CHAMPVA PM are in the following summary.

MTOC (Master Table of Contents).

- Amends the MTOC by adding the title change for Chapter 2, Section 4.7, *Radiofrequency Catheter Ablation of Aberrant Conducting Pathways to the Heart* to read *Ablation of Aberrant Conducting Pathways of the Heart*.
- Amends the MTOC by adding Chapter 2, Section 8.3, *Neonatal and Pediatric Critical Care Services*.
- Removes Chapter 2, Section 10.8, *Radial Keratotomy*, to RESERVED.

Chapter 2, Section 3.4, IMMUNOTHERAPY FOR MALIGNANT DISEASE.

- Amends Authority reference.
- Under Policy adds reference to FDA drug approvals.
- Adds Policy Considerations for FDA approved immunotherapies.
- Under Exclusions adds the regulatory exclusion for immunotherapies and the exception for treatment of Stage O and Stage A carcinoma of the bladder.

Chapter 2, Section 10.2, EYE AND OCULAR ADNEXA.

- Amends Procedure Codes.
- Under Policy Considerations removes references to corneal transplant (keratoplasty) surgical procedure, keratoprosthesis services and PTK (Phototherapeutic Keratectomy), as this information is found in Chapter 2, Section 10.9, *Refractive Keratoplasty*; clarifies coverage of the Molteno Implant.
- Under Exclusions clarifies the exclusion of refractive corneal surgery except as indicated in Chapter 2, Section 10.9, *Refractive Keratoplasty*, and Chapter 2, Section 31.9, *Corneal Transplantation*; removes the exclusion epikeratophakia for treatment of aphakia and myopia, as this exclusion is found within Chapter 2, Section 10.9, *Refractive Keratoplasty*.

Chapter 2, Section 10.8, RADIAL KERATOTOMY.

- Policy guidance pertaining to Radial Keratotomy is now found in Chapter 2, Section 10.9, *Refractive Keratoplasty*, and Chapter 2, Section 31.9, *Corneal Transplantation*; Chapter 2, Section 10.8, has been moved to RESERVED.

Chapter 2, Section 14.7, FAMILY PLANNING.

- Under Policy clarifies that prescription contraceptives are covered as a method of birth control and also when used as emergency contraceptives.

Chapter 2, Section 15.2, COLLATERAL VISITS.

- Under Policy Considerations removes reference to group collateral visits.
- Under Exclusion adds group collateral visits.

Chapter 2, Section 15.5, NURSING HOME VISITS.

- Under Procedure Codes removes reference to the January 1, 1992, revised CPT 99000 series codes and the former CPT 90000 series codes.
- Under Policy adds hyperlink reference to Chapter 2, Section 15.8, *Custodial Care*.

Chapter 2, Section 15.6, SKILLED NURSING FACILITY VISITS.

- Under Effective Date removes the reference to the former CPT 90000 series codes; adds, March 3, 1992, as the effective date of policy.
- Adds Description for evaluation and management services provided to patients in skilled nursing facilities.
- Under Policy clarifies that claims submitted that do not provide for the level of the skilled nursing visit as an initial visit or for a follow-up visit will be denied for the appropriate code.
- Under Policy Considerations clarifies that initial skilled nursing facility care for a patient transferred from a hospital by a physician on the day of hospital discharge is covered, provided that no hospital visit was billed for the final day of hospitalization; and adds hyperlink reference to Chapter 3, Section 6.1, *SNF (Skilled Nursing Facility) Reimbursement*, for information concerning reimbursement of skilled nursing facility visits.

Chapter 2, Section 15.8, CUSTODIAL CARE.

- Amends Authority and Related Authority.
- Under Definitions clarifies custodial care and activities of daily living, and removes note.
- Under Policy removes the exceptions, and adds note previously referenced under Definitions.
- Adds Exceptions that a beneficiary may also require medically necessary skilled service from a home health agency and that preauthorized hospice care may also include custodial care; adds exceptions to non-coverage of custodial care previously listed under Policy; adds hyperlink references to Chapter 2, Section 15.3, *Home Visits*, and Chapter 2, Section 16.4, *Hospice*.

Chapter 2, Section 16.6, *MEDICAL PHOTOGRAPHY.*

- Amends Authority.

Chapter 2, Section 18.7, *SPECIFIC LEARNING DISORDERS.*

- Under Description revises language for clarification.
- Under Policy revises language for clarification.
- Under Policy Considerations removes reference to coverage for speech therapy for development language and articulation disorders.
- Adds Exclusion previously listed under Policy Considerations for psychological testing for diagnosed specific learning disorders.

Chapter 2, Section 30.3, *SPEECH SERVICES.*

- Under Description removes reference to therapeutic process (such as vocal cord surgery).
- Under Policy Considerations removes reference to developmental hearing delay attributed to medically documented chronic middle ear effusion or recurrent acute otitis media during the formative years of speech (through age 4-years) which contribute materially to a delay in either speech or language qualifies as a sensory disorder.
- Adds Exception for beneficiary's age 3-21 receiving services under the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) and IEP (Individuals Education Act), which was previously listed as an Exclusion.
- Under Exclusions removes reference to beneficiaries age 3-21 receiving services under the IDEA and IEP, which is now listed as an Exception; clarifies that myofunctional or tongue therapy is considered experimental (unproven), and adds coverage for speech therapy for development language and articulation disorders.

Chapter 2, Section 31.1, *DONOR COSTS.*

- Amends Authority.

Chapter 2, Section 31.5, *SPK (SIMULTANEOUS PANCREAS-KIDNEY), PAK (PANCREAS AFTER KIDNEY), AND PTA (PANCREAS TRANSPLANT ALONE).*

- Under Exclusions revises language to add autologous islet cell transplantation in place of pancreatic islet transplantation.

Chapter 3, Section 1.1, *CLAIMS PROCESSING-GENERAL.*

- Under Policy corrects hyperlink reference to Chapter 2, Section 18.17.2, *Preauthorization For RTC (Residential Treatment Center) Care*, to Chapter 2, Section 18.17.1, *RTC (Residential Treatment Center) Educational Costs*.

Code Index. Amends index to add and delete codes referenced in this transmittal.

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